

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph no. [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

A second aspect of the present invention provides method for file backup using a parallel backup system comprising at least one file source and at least two backup devices. The method comprises calculating a segmentation threshold value, and subsequent to calculating the segmentation threshold value, directing the files from the file source to the backup devices. The method further comprises splitting files that exceed the segmentation threshold value into file segments, wherein each of the file segments does not exceed the segmentation threshold value. The files located in said file source and the file segments are sorted into a ~~list~~^{sorted} list, and the files smaller than the segmentation threshold value and the file segments are written to the backup devices according to the sorted list. Alternatively, the method further comprises sorting the files located in the file source into a sorted list, and writing files smaller than the segmentation threshold value into the backup devices according to the sorted list. Next, files that are larger than the segmentation threshold value are split into file segments according to space remaining in each of the backup devices, and then the file segments are written to the backup devices.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

A third aspect of the present invention provides a computer software product for a parallel backup system comprising a file source and at least two backup devices. The computer program product comprises software instructions that enable the parallel backup system to perform predetermined operations, and a computer readable medium bearing the software

instructions. The predetermined operations comprise calculating a segmentation threshold value, and subsequent to calculating the segmentation threshold value, directing the files from the file source to the backup devices. The predetermined operations further comprise splitting files that exceed the segmentation threshold value into file segments, wherein each of the file segments does not exceed the segmentation threshold value. The files located in said file source and the file segments are sorted into a ~~list~~list, and the files smaller than the segmentation threshold value and the file segments are written to the backup devices according to the sorted list.

Alternatively, the predetermined operations further comprise sorting the files located in the file source into a sorted list, and writing files smaller than the segmentation threshold value into the backup devices according to the sorted list. Next, files that are larger than the segmentation threshold value are split into file segments according to space remaining in each of the backup devices, and then the file segments are written to the backup devices.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

A fourth aspect of the invention provides a computer system adapted for parallel backup of a file source and at least two backup devices. The computer system comprises a file source and at least two backup devices interconnected by a communications link. The computer further comprises a memory comprising software instructions adapted to enable the computer system to calculate a segmentation threshold value and direct files from the file source to the backup devices. The software instructions further comprise splitting files that exceed the segmentation threshold value into file segments, wherein each of the file segments does not exceed the

segmentation threshold value. The files located in said file source and the file segments are sorted into a ~~list~~list, and the files smaller than the segmentation threshold value and the file segments are written to the backup devices according to the sorted list. Alternatively, the software instructions further comprise sorting the files located in the file source into a sorted list, and writing files smaller than the segmentation threshold value into the backup devices according to the sorted list. Next, files that are larger than the segmentation threshold value are split into file segments according to space remaining in each of the backup devices, and then the file segments are written to the backup devices.